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real excellence in other respects. The book does not purport to contain an exhaustive collection of authorities, but a sufficient number of citations are given to support the development of the work. The New York codifications are added in separate notes, so as to make the treatise of especial value to the New York practitioner. These are not so extensive, however, as to intrude unduly upon the uniformity of the work and are so separated as to justify the hope of the author that the text may be of practical value to those who are not concerned with special New York law. On the whole, the treatise may be considered a contribution of value. Its completion will be awaited with anticipation.

**SELECT CASES BEFORE THE KING'S COUNCIL IN THE STAR CHAMBER.**

Edited for the Selden Society by I. S. Leadam. Being Vol. 16 of the Publications of the Selden Society for 1902. London. 1903. pp. cliv, 339.

The belated volume of the Selden Society for 1902 has appeared, and is as scholarly, if not as generally interesting or valuable, as its predecessors. It serves to illustrate the fundamental departure which the Society has been making of late years — always excepting Mr. Maitland's admirable Year Books — from its original purpose and plan, which was to publish the early materials for legal history. These Star Chamber papers (it is misleading to call them "cases" as neither opinion nor judgment is given, for the best of reasons) are of no legal interest whatsoever, though they possess considerable interest for the social historian, and throw a little light on the nature of an institution which died and left no sign. The Star Chamber was the vermiciform appendix of the King's Council, notable only when inflamed, and excised for the safety of the body politic. Real reports of early cases there decided — and there are many volumes of them in manuscript — would be of legal interest; but a labored study of the institution itself is to the lawyer, at least, mere fruitless antiquarianism. The introductions to the Society's publications were intended to be subordinate to the text. Mr. Leadam's Introduction, fortunately, is the principal feature of the book, and is a masterly essay on the Star Chamber, its history, process and pleadings, composition and jurisdiction; and a comment, historical, social, and genealogical, on the stories told by the papers printed.

To say that this introduction will be warmly welcomed by students of English history in the earlier Tudor times is a moderate statement. It disposes authoritatively of the notion, not lately much urged, that the Court of Star Chamber owed its origin to the Statute of 3 Henry VII. It settles certain other obscure constitutional questions, and it throws valuable light on the social history of the times. But where are the early sources we have been so long promised? The series of ancient rolls would fill a small world; why can we not have printed the rolls of a complete eyre of the fourteenth century, to compare with the Pleas for Gloucester? If not from the unpublished Year Books, then from the rolls let us get an insight into the development of the law in Richard's day. Or if that is asking too much, let us have more Select Civil, Criminal, and Manorial pleas. Can no one but Professor Maitland edit such things?

But it seems ungracious to find fault when such admirable work of its kind is given to us — of a kind, too, which is very probably more generally desired than the strictly legal work. Mr. Leadam's work deserves, and should receive, the warmest commendation.

J. H. B. JR.

**ENGLISH AND INDIAN LAW OF TORTS.** By Ratanlal Ranchhoddas and Dhirajlal Keshavlal. Second Edition. Bombay: The Bombay Law Reporter Office. 1903. pp. civ, 581. 8vo.

The first edition of this work, which appeared in 1897, has apparently been of great service to the profession in India. Its excellence as a general treatise upon the subject combined with its special treatment of Indian cases and the